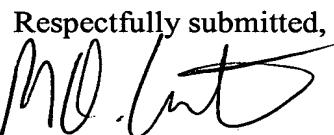


REMARKS

Claims 1, 2 and 5-26 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 1, 13-15, 24 and 25 are amended, and claims 3 and 4 are cancelled. Claims 3 and 4 are being pursued in a continuation application. Claims 1, 13-15, 24 and 25 are amended to improve their grammar and for clarity. The amendments do not narrow the claims.

The Examiner is requested to consider the references submitted with the Information Disclosure Statement filed on March 11, 2004.

Prompt examination and allowance in due course earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Mario A. Costantino
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MAC/ccs

Date: July 7, 2005

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